Kingston Amateur Radio Club
2012 Executive

Kingston Amateur News

President: Terry Barrett, VA3KLG
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres:Steve Cutway, VE3KC
vicepres at ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: David Sellick, VE3DZE
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Steve Cutway, VE3KC
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Two Metre Net Manager:
VE3KC Steve Cutway
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

Newsletter Editor:
VA3PCI Assaf Shool
news at ve3kbr.com

Repeater Committee:
VA3GST, John Snasdell-Taylor
va3gst at kos.net

VA3KGB, Chip Chapman
va3kgb at rac.ca

VE3JCQ, John Wood
john686 at sympatico.ca

VE3MNE, Don Gilroy
dgilroy at cogeco.ca

P. O. Box 1402 Kingston Ontario K7L 5C6

http://www.ve3kbr.com

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn
147.090 (+) MHz

VE3KER Kingston packet node
145.010 MHz simplex

VE3KBR Kingston
146.940(-) MHz
151.4Hz Tone
IRLP 2750

VE3UEL Hartington APRS node
144.390 MHz

<u>FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT</u>

As this is the January 2012 newsletter, this column's title should really be, "From the Vice-President", but as I'm still President at the time of writing, I hope our incoming President will allow me some latitude.

* * * * *

Thanks to the 14 members and guests who made the effort to attend our December meeting, and who enjoyed two presentations:

• Assaf VA3PCI's demonstration of radio apps he's developed or developing for the Apple iDevices; and

• the movies Les VE3KFS produced, complete with music, of club people and events from the past.

* * * * *

As I announced on the Free List following the December meeting, the members of the executive for 2012 are:

President: Terry Barrett VA3KLG

Vice-President: Steve Cutway VE3KC (a demotion, I guess. :-)

Secretary: Assaf Shool VA3PCI

Treasurer: David Sellick VE3DZE

Assaf VA3PCI will continue as Newsletter Editor and John Wood VE3JCQ and John Snasdell-Taylor VA3GST will continue as members of the Repeater Committee. I will continue to manage this Free List and as Net Manager.

The 2012 executive will assume their duties and responsibilities Jan. 1.

I'd like to thank Doug VE3FFR for his service as Treasurer for the past two years and Chip VA3KGB for his continuing service as our webmaster.

Thanks to everyone for your support during the past two years. Despite a few bumps in the road, it's been a pleasure to serve as your President and I know you join me in welcoming Terry VA3KLG to the position and will give him the same support you gave me.

* * * * *

I look forward to seeing everyone at the January 4, 2012 meeting. Until our next QSO on the air, or at the next meeting, happy holidays, 73s and good DX.

Steve VE3KC

<u>INSURANCE UPDATE</u>

By motion passed at the December meeting, I was asked to seek clarification on the status of our insurance. (See the minutes for details.)

Here is my correspondence with Ian MacFarquhar VE9IM, 1st RAC Vice-President. I think his explanation addresses the concerns raised at the meeting. As he says, your thoughts are welcome.

On 07/12/2011 10:55 PM, Steve Cutway wrote:

SC: Hi Mac:

At our club meeting tonight, by motion, I was asked to seek clarification on the 2012 insurance we've just purchased from RAC. Linda may have forwarded you my notes but in case not, I'll try to summarize our conversation.

When I submitted our application and payment, Linda advised me that three KARC members whom I reported as Rac members hadn't renewed so we owed RAC an additional $35.64. I sent a cheque on Monday so she'll receive it shortly. But that experience raised questions.

• If one or more of the KARC members renew their RAC membership, can we request a rebate? As I said to Linda, I expect the answer to be 'no' because it would create an administrative nightmare both for clubs and for RAC.

• Conversely, if KARC members whom I reported as RAC members don't renew, does it have any impact on our insurance? Again, I expect the answer to be 'no' because tracking that would be an administrative nightmare both for clubs and RAC. The motion passed at our meeting tonight asks for an answer to this question in writing.

IM: You are right on both counts. It has always been awkward. What the insurer says is that as long as the numbers are realistic then say within 10% then it should be OK. We pay based on a gross number of RAC members and then have to sort it out Club by club. It is really on the honour system and if the Club does not provide a realistic number for members and something goes wrong, then there could be problems. It gets awkward when people renew their memberships during the year, so we have avoided it. We wrestled with doing a mid year update from Clubs but as of now have decided not to, to keep things simple. Maybe we should institute one, say for June 1st, before Field Day. Lot of paperwork though. Regardless we do not want to discourage from joining RAC. Maybe we should offer a grace period, say 3 months for people to join RAC and if done in that time frame we would refund the surcharge. That would also be a chance to update all info. This means the Club foots the bill initially and gets more time to work over their members to join RAC and drop their insurance costs. Your comments would help.

SC: In light of the now established RAC Insurance Program for Affiliated Clubs, I think RAC should develop a new membership model. All memberships should come due Jan. 1 of each year. Lots of organizations do it that way. Nancy is a member of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada and the Kingston Historical Society. Their memberships for everyone are due Jan 1 each calendar year. At least one of those organizations, the Ontario Genealogical Society, offers a half-year membership for people who join or renew after July 1st with the expectation that they'll renew for a full year the following January. It seems to me that this model would facilitate the administration of the insurance program.

IM: Actually that is the way the insurance program works now, January 1 to December 31. Our application uses data from the mid November deadline, so perhaps that Grace period idea may have some legs and be a workable fix. The sticky point as you point out is when people join at random times. We don't know when their membership expires so it is possible that it could expire January 2. Again your ideas can help here.

Steve VE3KC

<u>FEATURE ARTICLE</u>

Why Should I Become Aware and Consider Being A Member

By Major D.J.W. Bergeron, CFARS National Manager

This is my first article as the Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio System (CFARS) National Manager. I took over from Captain Hal Buller on 01 April 2011. My aim in this article is to quickly explain why I felt compelled to volunteer to be part of CFARS and why I think that readers should also consider this as a worthwhile hobby and contribution to national emergency preparedness.

CFARS has existed officially and unofficially in various forms since 8 August 1946 under the auspices of the RCAF, the Air Force Amateur Radio System (AFARS). I will borrow a quick paragraph out of the CFARS history. "This program operated successfully for 6 years until 31 August 1952, at which time a portion of the program integrated with the Civil Defence Communications Organization. AFARS was made up of approximately 500 licensed amateur radio operators from across Canada and carried out such roles as providing communication in the area of search and rescue, assistance during national emergencies, and operating weekly nets on a regional and national basis. The program was funded by DND, and operated on various frequencies allocated outside the amateur radio bands. It published an excellent quarterly magazine and provided various types of communications equipment on a loan basis to its members. Perhaps the most visible association and, as far as the military is concerned, the most beneficial service in terms of morale, provided by the amateur radio fraternity over the past 25 years or so, has been the provision of a person-to-person voice traffic link in the form of "phone patching" performed by ham operators for service personnel stationed in remote and isolated locations so they may communicate with their families at home."
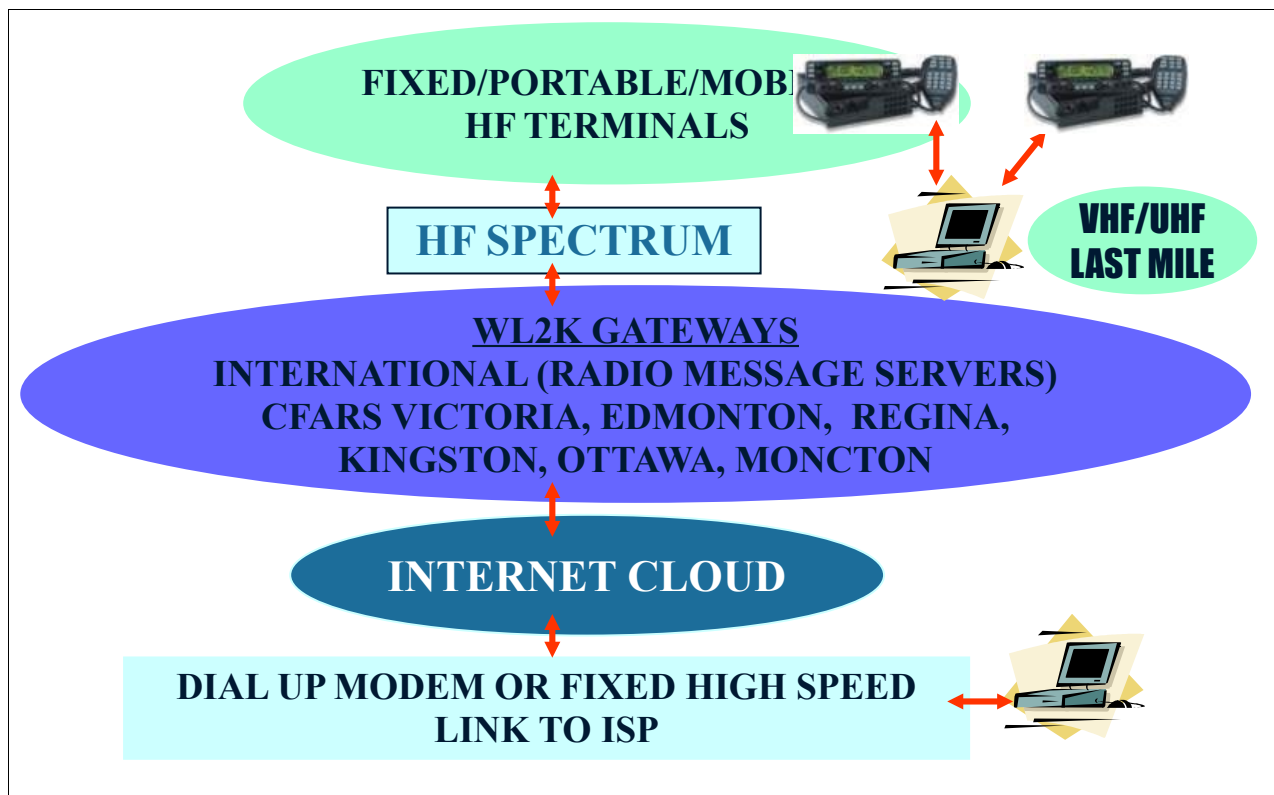
I was interested in amateur radio and took up the hobby while serving at CFS Alert in the 1970s and 80s, running phone patches and backup emergency HF links for when primary unit HF links would fail.

Since the advent of satellite communications, the need for phone patches with conversations to loved ones that would sound like "I love you honey, OVER" gradually gave way to telephone like we know them today. This also gave way to the DND funding that was in place and the gradual disappearance of CFARS in our collective vocabularies. But since there was a CF component in the CFARS, there have been temptations to formerly retire it on at least a couple of occasions. This would have happened only for the intervention of dedicated members both in and out of uniform who kept the heart beating through innovation and active engagement with government and emergency services such as Industry Canada, Public Safety Canada, Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), the RCMP, Transport Canada, Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) to name a few. Innovation in areas such as provision of internet accessibility over HF, with the ability to send and receive data such as e-mail, video, electronic images, etc., is now a reality. Phone patches are still possible, but are not a large part of what CFARS members do on a day-to-day basis. CFARS affiliate operators now own and manage five HF gateways providing access to the internet that allows anyone with a laptop computer, a radio and a modem (see figure 1) to access their e-mail via HF gateways.

Figure 1 - Basic Equipment for HF Data/E-Mail including laptop, TNC Modem, Radio, Antenna Tuner and Antenna

CFARS operates regularly with its US counterpart, the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), which is sponsored by the Department of Defence. MARS also operates HF gateways, but the number is far greater than in Canada. Being associated with MARS can provide an operator with the appropriate equipment a far greater chance of success to fetch their e-mail when the atmospheric conditions are poor, due to the expanded number of potential HF gateways to select from. See figure 2 for example of how access to e-mail via HF is accomplished via HF gateways.

FIXED/PORTABLE/MOBILE
HF TERMINALS

HF SPECTRUM

VHF/UHF
LAST MILE

WL2K GATEWAYS
INTERNATIONAL (RADIO MESSAGE SERVERS)
CFARS VICTORIA, EDMONTON, REGINA,
KINGSTON, OTTAWA, MONCTON

INTERNET CLOUD

DIAL UP MODEM OR FIXED HIGH SPEED
LINK TO ISP

Having said that, the technology advances on HF and the innovative use that CFARS members and members of the Amateur Radio community as a whole have made on the HF band, are quite remarkable. However, it is the dedication of those who have spent countless hours in developing a meaningful purpose for CFARS and their willingness to step up during emergencies such as major flooding, fires, earthquakes that have impressed me the most. Recently, the Anik F2 satellite failed resulting in many communities in the arctic left without communications. Within one hour of being notified, the majority of CFARS operators (of approximately 100) were activated, monitoring known HF frequencies for any signs of operators in Northern locations requiring assistance. The outage lasted only 12 hours, but had the outage lasted longer, the potential for serious ramifications was there with no other quick means to get the word out to the rest of Canadians. It is also important to note that once CFARS was activated, it also resulted in a notification sent across the amateur radio world to listen for signs of distress, and the number of licensed amateur radio operators in Canada alone number in the thousands.

The potential for CFARS as a viable back-up emergency service for the CF is obvious. This is even more evident in the arctic where satellite communications coverage is limited. Considering that the community of operators within CFARS spans every province and territory within Canada, many of which are members of municipal and provincial emergency services, excellent situational awareness on local emergencies is also a valuable service that can be provided. These two factors have been recognized by Canada Command and on 17 November 2011, a meeting was held between the CFARS Executive and Canada Command J6 Ops to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will once again reinvigorate the CF part of CFARS. With an MOU in place, CFARS will be looking to expand their membership and recruit interested members with priority in the North. Canada Command will also be looking at hosting training sessions in the North for potential new members.

To conclude, why am I part of CFARS? Because of its members, the innovations and the value I know CFARS can make to the Canadian Forces and national emergencies when other primary means of emergency communications have failed. There are immediate openings for licensed Canadian Amateur Radio operators in areas of the Northern provinces and territories as well as both the Western and Eastern coasts. You can get more information on the CFARS Web site at www.cfars.ca. Being a volunteer service, there is no pay, but the camaraderie and the rewards are superb!
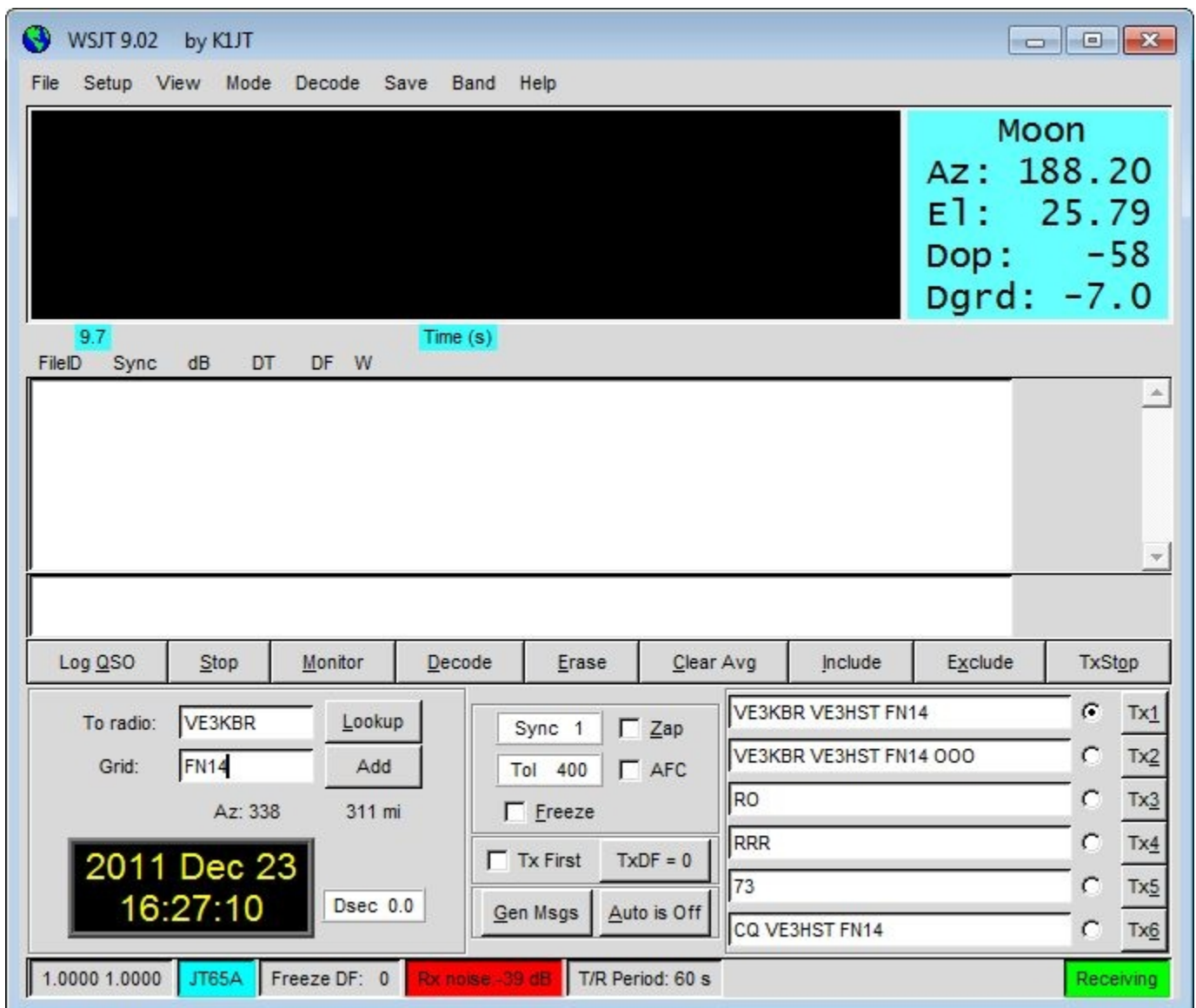
MEMBER ARTICLE

WSJT – Weak Signal Joe Taylor

According to Wikipedia, Joe Taylor, W1JT, is an American astrophysicist and Nobel Prize in Physics laureate. His is credited with discovering a new type of pulsar or pulsating star. He has been a radio amateur since he was a teenager. He wrote the software WSJT for moonbounce and meteor scatter. It has since been used for weak signal HF communications and in other weak signal applications.

WSJT is actually a family of related applications such as FSK441, JT6M, JT65, JT2, JT4, WSPR and others. They all evolved from his research work in processing the very weak signals from pulsars. The software will work on Windows, Linux and Macs. The source code is now being distributed as open source software in Python, C and Fortran, and it looks like it is not for the faint-of-heart. However, the application itself is fairly easy to use but it is a bit unusual.

The current version is WSJT 9.0. For Windows, that means a download file WSJT9-r2226.EXE as of 23 December 2011. The latest documentation is the WSJT6 User's Guide and the WSJT 9.0 Supplement to User's Guide. Installation is very easy. Just double click on the .EXE file. You run WSJT by double clicking on the installed icon. There is some configuration to do such as your callsign and grid square. If you use a soundcard, either internal or external, and have the connections to your radio that you would use for PSK31, RTTY etc. using one of the standard digital modes software, that should work just fine for WSJT. An additional requirement for WSJT is a very accurate computer clock. If you already get your computer time updated via the Internet, that may already be good enough. You might want to set your time updates to every hour or shorter. The time requirement for WSJT is better than one second.

I first got interested in WSJT about a year ago and used an earlier version with Linux. I made contacts in JT65 mode with KJ4VTH, WB4RQD, KE4BCF. My furthest contact was with DK4BCF, a distance of 5941 km. The signal reports are given as R-9 for Readability 9, or in decibels. For these contacts, I got one R-9 and a series of -12, -13, -05 and -09 meaning this many dbs below the noise level. Most of the time, you cannot hear any of these signals on the audio or see them in a waterfall display. I just downloaded and installed version 9.0 for Windows but have not yet tried it on the air. Below is the screen for this new version, configured for a hypothetical QSO between VE3HST and VE3KBR.

A typical QSO would look something like this. The initial callsign is just used here to indicate which station is transmitting.

VE3HST: CQ VE3HST FN14

VE3KBR: VE3HST VE3KBR FN14

VE3HST: VE3KBR VE3HST FN14 OOO

VE3KBR: RO

VE3HST: RRR

VE3KBR: TNX PHIL 73

So you see it is very short. It is also very slow because it is doing a huge amount of error correction to pull the signals out of the noise. The OOO, RO and RRR are a few of the shortcuts for signal reports, confirmations, etc.

So my next step is to get this new Windows version 9 on the air. I may have a further article or two as I learn more about WSJT and use it a bit more. I see that JT65 is now available as a mode in MultiPSK so you might want to try that version. I think we should experiment a bit with WSJT here in the Kingston area. Lets give it a try.

... Phil VE3HST

Wednesday, Jan. 4
Wednesday, Feb. 1
Wednesday, Mar. 7
Wednesday, Apr. 4
Wednesday, May 2
Wednesday, June 6
Wednesday, Sept. 5
Wednesday, Oct. 3
Wednesday, Nov. 7
Wednesday, Dec. 5

AGENDA

AGENDA
KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
04 January 2012
At Smitty's Restaurant, back room
07:00 PM

1.   Members and guests introduce themselves

2.   Additions to the agenda

3.   Minutes of the last meeting: errors/omissions/approval (Assaf VA3PCI)

4.   Treasurer's report (David VE3DZE)

5.   Business arising from the Minutes:

6.   New business:

7.   Reports:
        (a) President (Terry VA3KLG)
        (b) Repeaters (John VA3GST)
        (c) RAC
        (d) Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
        (e) Web page (Chip VA3KGB)
        (f) KARC Newsletter (Assaf VA3PCI)
        (g) Frontenac County ARES (George VE3SIQ)
        (h) 'Hearts and Flowers'
        (i) Other reports

8.   Date of next meeting: 01 February 2012

9.   50/50 draw

10.   Adjournment

Presentation: Ron VE3GO

Will do something on shipping in the area the Seaway, history of etc and where to monitor them, shoot the best pictures ,ship watch etc. He has tons of historical and recent pictures. Ron has also photographed ships and race cars for about 50 years. Can also give details of the trip form Kingston to Quebec City via the St. Lawrence from his days on the Canadian Empress.

Other picture presentations are also welcome. Just put them in a folder on a USB thumb drive. Pictures should be in .JPG format and numbered sequentially starting with 'IMG01.jpg' or 'Slide01.jpg'. Each folder should contain only 10 pictures with the highest one numbered '10.jpg'.

<u>MEETING MINUTES</u>

<div align="center">

<u>MINUTES OF MEETING</u>

OF THE

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

HELD ON

Wednesday 7 Dec 2011

At Smitty's

</div>

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by our president Steve VE3KC.

1. The members present introduced themselves. There were 13 members and one guest in attendance who donated Christmas tips for the serving staff at Smitty's.

2. **Additions to the Agenda:** Phil VE3HST added an agenda item: "Suggestion to replace or eliminate the Club membership card", which he had asked to be discussed at the November meeting but wasn't as he wasn't there.

3. **Minutes:** David VE3DZE moved, seconded by Les VE3KFS to approve the minutes of the November meeting which were published in the December newsletter. The motion passed.

4. **November Treasurer's Report:** Doug VE3FFR read the Nov financial report. We had a closing balance of $5639.36. Doug moved, seconded by Roy VE3VJF, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as read. Motion carried.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

a) **2012 Membership Fee:** The 2012 membership dues are now due.

b) **Hamfest:** Terry VA3KLG reported that the Museum made approximately $800 from the event and the Club made about $350. The Ottawa Amateur Radio club, which toured the Museum during our Hamfest, has booked to tour the museum again during next year's Hamfest. Next year's Hamfest will be a week later than this year so it will be held on Nov. 17, 2012. Roy VE3VJF wondered whether there could be a coffee station on hand for next year, saying that a number of attendees asked for it this year. Doug VE3FFR suggested we could get an urn from Tim Horton's. Terry VA3KLG said that he'd look into it.

c) **Insurance:** Steve VE3KC reported that due to three club members not renewing their RAC memberships, the new total for club insurance is $613.61 rather than $535.68 approved at the November meeting. Phil VE3HST, moved, seconded by John VA3GST that the President seek clarification from RAC what effect fluctuating RAC membership has on our insurance coverage. The motion passed.

6. **New Business:**

 a) **Elections:**

Nominations for president were: Terry VA3KLG and Steve VE3KC. Terry VA3KLG was elected.

Nominations for Vice-President were: Steve VE3KC and George VE3SIQ. Steve VE3KC was elected.

Nomination for Secretary was: Assaf VA3PCI who was acclaimed.

Nominations for Treasurer were: Doug VE3FFR and David VE3DZE. David VE3DZE was elected.

Assaf VA3PCI will continue as newsletter editor and John VA3GST and John VE3JCQ will continue as members of the Repeater Committee. Steve VE3KC will continue to manage the Free List and serve as Net Manager.

 b) **Suggestion to replace or eliminate the Club membership card:** Phil VE3HST moved, seconded by Les VE3KFS, to not mail cards to members unless requested and to amend the application form on the website to add a tick box for requesting the mailing of membership cards/receipts. Phil said that mailing paper receipts and membership cards only to members requesting them would reduce costs. Steve VE3KC said that the executive considered this matter at its November meeting. He said it believes that cards are needed as proof of membership, particularly for voting purposes. Phil questioned the need for receipts and membership cards at all, saying that it's the Club's responsibility to keep accurate membership records. Steve disagreed citing his own experience where he had to provide proof of membership to a previous Treasurer. He also said that in order to implement this motion, either the Treasurer or the person looking after membership records (if they aren't the same person) will need the necessary computer skills to generate electronic proof of membership. Doug VE3FFR said that he's only mailed a small number of cards this year as he has been able to give them to most members personally. Despite Steve's concerns, the motion passed.

7. **Reports:**

 a) **President:** See the report in the December newsletter.

 b) **Repeaters:** Les VE3KFS reported that all three machines are running well.

 c) **RAC:** Nothing to report. See RAC bulletins via the Free List.

 d) **Net Manager:** The report is in the December newsletter with an updated schedule for net controllers. KARC net is Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM.

 e) **Web Page:** Chip VA3KGB is in Edmonton but the web site is running fine. Assaf VA3PCI has written some handy radio apps for the iPhone and there will be links to them on our website.

 f) **Newsletter:** Assaf VA3PCI reminded everyone that articles for the newsletter should be sent to news@ve3kbr.com a week before the monthly meeting. He also said that the newsletter is available to other amateur radio groups to publish events as well as KARC.

 g) **FCARES:** George VE3SIQ reported all is well at FCARES.

 h) '**Hearts and Flowers':** No one knew of anyone who is unwell.

8. The question of auditing the books will be looked at in the new year.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Jan. 4, 2012.

10. **Fifty fifty:** $10.50 was won by Paul VA3LX.

11. **Adjournment:** Roy VE3VJF seconded by George VE3SIQ, moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

Assaf VA3PCI demonstrated two iPhone radio apps and Les VE3KFS showed two videos he produced of club people and events from the past.

David Sellick VE3DZE

Secretary

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Financial Statement
Dec 2011

Income

Membership	125.00
50/50 Draw	10.50

Total Income	135.50

Expenses

Rac Ins	35.64

Total Expenses	35.64

Overall Total	99.86

Bank Balance	
As of Dec 27, 2011	4,938.65

<div align="center">

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Year to Date
Financial Report
Jan to Dec 2011

</div>

Income

Membership	920.00
Flea Mrkt Raffle	140.50
Flea Mrkt Tables	200.00
Donations	109.93
Bank Int	20.82
50/50 Draw	76.50
IRLP	25.00
Total Income	**1,492.75**

Expenses

Bank Charges	7.00
Donations	200.00
Rac Ins	1,054.42
Post Box Rental	152.55
Postage	23.56
Equipment	1,205.27
50/50 Draw Float	35.00
Misc Business	9.52
Website costs	231.39
Cards	5.30
Total Expenses	**2,924.01**

Overall Total	-1,431.26

NET CONTROL SCHEDUALE

Month	Date	Controller
December	27	VE3JPW Warren
January	3	VA3PCI Assaf
January	10	VE3VJF Roy
January	17	VE3CAK John
January	24	VE3DZE David
January	31	VE3JPW Warren
February	7	VE3KC Steve
February	14	VE3NFU Bill
February	21	VE3JPW Warren
February	28	VE3VJF Roy
March	6	VE3CAK John
March	13	VE3DZE David
March	20	VE3JPW Warren
March	27	VE3KC Steve
April	3	VE3NFU Bill
April	10	VA3PCI Assaf
April	17	VE3VJF Roy
April	24	VE3CAK John
May	1	VE3DZE David
May	8	VE3JPW Warren
May	15	VE3NFU Bill
May	22	VE3KC Steve
May	29	VA3PCI Assaf
June	5	VE3VJF Roy
June	12	VE3CAK John
June	19	VE3DZE David
June	26	VE3JPW Warren

KARC Tuesday night net Control Script

Revised March 7, 2011

Good evening. This is [callsign], net control station for the Kingston Amateur Radio Club's Tuesday night net. My name is ----.

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club Tuesday night net is an informal net that meets at 1930 hours every Tuesday evening on the Kingston repeater, VE3KBR, 146.940 MHz, with a 151.4 Hz tone required on the input, 146.340 MHz. We welcome participation by all amateurs.

Before continuing, is there any emergency or priority traffic? Please call now.

The purpose of the net is to take check-ins; to inform you of KARC activities; to provide news from other radio clubs and news of interest to Radio Amateurs. Information about KARC may be found on the web site (www.ve3kbr.com) or by contacting any of our club executive members.

I will take check-ins giving priority to mobiles, portables and stations checking in via EchoLink or IRLP. When checking in, please give your call sign phonetically, your name and location, and indicate whether you have any traffic or announcements for the net.

Are there any stations using EchoLink or IRLP wishing to check in? Please call now.

Are there any mobiles wishing to check in? Please call now.

Are there any portables wishing to check in? Please call now.

Are there any base stations wishing to check in? Please call now.

Trivia Time

Here's tonight's trivia question(s).

Swap Shop

Are there any items for the swap shop?

Closing

Are there any additional check-ins or announcements before I end the net?

That concludes this evening's Kingston Amateur Radio Club Tuesday night net. Thank you for participating. We had [number] check-ins this evening. 73. This is [callsign] returning the repeater to normal amateur use.